



# Hacky Hours

## Demographics, Building Communities and Sharing Local Expertise

Researchers starting their journey through data science often have an ambiguous path to follow. While online data science classes are plentiful, it can be challenging for those researchers, who have often never seen programming code before, to know where to start or how apply methods to their own data. In Queensland, many of the universities, including Griffith, UQ, QUT USQ and JCU, have been supporting these researchers by running 'Hacky Hours'; an open session where researchers can meet research software engineers and other researchers doing similar work.

Hacky Hour communities have also been a way to connect with the wider research and technical communities, providing links to relevant meetups, hackathons, workshops offered outside their university and national resources such as NeCTAR cloud compute and virtual labs, local High Performance Computing (HPC) and other NCRIS activities. As many researchers can operate in isolated silos, this can often be the first time clients learn about these resources and initiatives.

The coordinators of Hacky Hours also work together to build a larger community. Coordinators share ideas for events, resources and lessons learnt. This has been collated into a ['Hacky Hours' handbook](#) and [google group](#)

Check out our Analytics and Statistics [in this link](#).

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